

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 14, 16-20, 23, 27, 32, 40, 42, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 and 16-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 12-14, 16, 21, 22, 27, 29-31, and 38-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dedrick (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,884).

In the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 9-11, 17-20, 23-26, 28, and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dedrick.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 12-14, 16, 21, 22, 27, 30, 31, and 39-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Davies et al. (U.S. Patent No. WO 96/23265).

In the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 9-11, 17-20, 23-26, 28, 29, 32-38, 44, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies et al.

In response thereto, claims 1, 7, 14, 16-20, 22, 23, 27, 31, 32, 36, 40, 42, and 45 have been amended and new claims 46-57 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 16-57 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Preliminary Matter

In response to the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection, claim 14 has been amended to describe a content provider transmitting a content to a target computer. It is respectfully submitted that claim 14 and the dependent claims are deemed statutory for reciting a practical application within the technological arts.

In response to the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection, second paragraph rejection, the words "to be transmitted" in claim 14 has been replaced with --transmitted-- to recite that a transmission is actually carried out. Furthermore, the word "generate" has been replaced with --provide-- to more clearly describe what is being claimed. It is respectfully submitted that claim 14 and the dependent claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 describes a system having a target computer to receive a content. A content provider is coupled to the target computer via a network to transmit the content. The content provider comprises a user rule page containing information obtained from the target computer by a first agent, and further comprises a rulebook to provide a rule based on the user rule page. The rule controls the content to be transmitted from a database to the target computer.

The Dedrick reference discloses a method and apparatus for storing and undating electronic information in a personal content provider (27) for an individual user (12) (see Figures 1 and 2). The personal content provider is part of a server belonging to the target computer of the individual user. As such, the Dedrick reference does not disclose or suggest a content provider coupled to the target computer via a network as recited in claim 1.

The Davies et al. reference discloses a system for accessing information stored in a distributed information database. Each agent (105) is built as an extension of a known viewer (400) for a distributed information system such as the Internet WorldWide Web. The agent is effectively integrated with the viewer and can extract pages by means of the viewer for storage in an intelligent page store. Both the agent and the intelligent page store are part of a customer's file server (see Figure1). As such, the Davies et al. reference does not disclose or suggest a content provider coupled to the target computer via a network as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-6, 21, 24-26, 28, 29, 41, 43 and 46-49

Claims 2-6, 21, 24-26, 28, 29, 43, and 46-49 depend from claim 1 and are similarly patentable. Furthermore, claim 46 describes the first agent being an object code for a control residing on a web page. In the cited references (Dedrick and Davies et al.), the agent residing in the user. As such, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the first agent being an object code for a control residing on a web page as recited in claim 46. Claim 49 describes the target computer communicating with additional content providers, and the target computer maintains several provider rule pages of the additional content providers. Each provider rule page includes information from at least one of the additional content providers. The cited references do not disclose or suggest each provider rule page including information from at least one of the additional content providers as recited in claim 49.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 7

Claim 7 describes obtaining information from a target computer by a first agent, the information being stored in a user rule page; providing a rule based on a rule page by a rule book, the rule controlling a content from a database; and transmitting through a network the content from the database to the target computer.

For the same reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 8-13, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37 and 50-53

Claims 8-13, 33, 34, 37, and 50-53 depend from claim 7 and are similarly patentable. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 14

Claim 14 describes a system having a content provider transmitting a content to a target computer. The content provider has a user rule page containing information obtained from the target computer by a first agent. The content provider further has a rulebook to provide a rule based on the user rule page. The rule controls a content transmitted from a database to the target computer.

For the same reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 16-20, 22, 23, 27, 32, 36, 40, 42, 45, and 54-57

Claims 16-20, 22, 23, 27, 32, 36, 40, 42, 45, and 54-57 depend from claim 14 and are similarly patentable. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1 1. (Seven Times Amended) A system comprising:
2 a target computer to receive a content; and
3 a content provider coupled to the target computer via a network to transmit the
4 content, the content provider comprising:
5 a user rule page containing information obtained from the target computer by a first
6 agent; and
7 a rulebook to ~~generate~~ provide a rule based on the user rule page, the rule controlling
8 the content to be transmitted from a database to the target computer.

1 7. (Seven Times Amended) A method comprising:
2 obtaining information from a target computer by a first agent, the information being
3 stored in a user rule page;
4 ~~generating~~ providing a rule based on the rule page by a rule book, the rule controlling
5 a content from a database; and
6 transmitting through a network the content from the database to the target computer.

1 14. (Five Times Amended) A ~~content provider~~ system comprising:
2 a content provider transmitting a content to a target computer, the content provider
3 comprising:
4 a user rule page containing information being obtained from a the target computer by
5 a first agent; and
6 a rulebook to ~~generate~~ provide a rule based on the user rule page, the rule controlling
7 a content ~~to be~~ transmitted from a database to the target computer.

1 15. Claim 15 cancelled.

1 16. (Four Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 14 wherein the
2 rule is stored in form of a condition-action pair.

1 17. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 16 wherein a
2 condition in the condition-action pair is a hardware characteristic of the target computer.

1 18. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 17 wherein the
2 hardware characteristic is a modem speed.

1 19. (Three Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 14 wherein the
2 rule page comprises a hardware profile to indicate hardware capabilities of the target
3 computer.

1 20. (Three Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 14 wherein the
2 rule page comprises a software profile to indicate software used by the target computer.

1 22. (Three Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 14 wherein the
2 content is transmitted in an internet protocol format.

1 23. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 20 wherein the
2 software profile includes a software package and memory usage by the target computer.

1 27. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content-provider~~ system of claim 14 wherein the
2 rule page comprises a user profile including dynamic information related to a user using the
3 target computer.

1 31. (Three Times Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein updating the
2 information comprises:
3 inserting new data into the rule page; and
4 removing old data from the rule page.

1 32. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content provider~~ system of claim 19 wherein the
2 hardware profile includes a type of processor, an amount of memory available, processor
3 clock speed, and memory usage on the target computer.

1 36. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content provider~~ system of claim 27 wherein the
2 dynamic information comprises information on web sites visited and time spent by the user.

1 40. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content provider~~ system of claim 14 wherein the
2 first agent uses an internet programming language.

1 42. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content provider~~ system of claim 14 further
2 comprising a second agent to update information in the rule page.

1 45. (Two Times Amended) The ~~content provider~~ system of claim 14 wherein the
2 content is an ad banner.

1 46. (Newly Added) The system of claim 1 wherein the first agent is an object
2 code for a control residing on a web page.

1 47. (Newly Added) The system of claim 46 wherein the control is transmitted
2 with the web page while a dormant object code resides on a server.

1 48. (Newly Added) The system of claim 1 wherein the target computer
2 communicates with additional content providers, and wherein the target computer maintains
3 several provider rule pages of the additional content providers.

1 49. (Newly Added) The system of claim 48 wherein each provider rule page
2 includes information from at least one of the additional content providers.

1 50. (Newly Added) The method of claim 7 wherein the first agent is an object
2 code for a control residing on a web page.

1 51. (Newly Added) The method of claim 50 further comprising transmitting the
2 control with the web page while a dormant object code resides on a server.

1 52. (Newly Added) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
2 communicating the target computer with additional content providers, the target
3 computer maintaining several provider rule pages of the additional content providers.

1 53. (Newly Added) The method of claim 52 wherein each provider rule page
2 includes information from at least one of the additional content providers.

1 54. (Newly Added) The system of claim 14 wherein the first agent is an object
2 code for a control residing on a web page.

1 55. (Newly Added) The system of claim 54 wherein the control is transmitted
2 with the web page while a dormant object code resides on a server.

1 56. (Newly Added) The system of claim 14 wherein the target computer
2 communicates with additional content providers, and wherein the target computer maintains
3 several provider rule pages of the additional content providers.

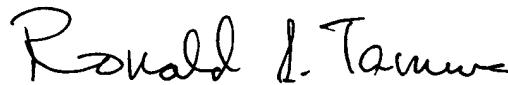
1 57. (Newly Added) The system of claim 56 wherein each provider rule page
2 includes information from at least one of the additional content providers.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-14 and 16-57 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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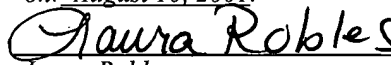
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Date